

Walsh Declares End of Iran-Contra Inquiry

pot 9/18/92

Reuter

Independent counsel Lawrence E. Walsh announced yesterday the end of his long criminal investigation into the Iran-contra scandal.

Walsh, in separate letters to the special court that appointed him nearly six years ago and to Attorney General William P. Barr, said no more criminal charges were expected.

"My office has completed its active investigation" into the Iran-contra affair, Walsh wrote George E. MacKinnon, presiding judge in the federal Appeals Court division

that appoints independent counsels. "We do not expect to present any further matters to the grand jury, in the absence of some new development before we close our offices."

Walsh has investigated the White House-run scheme to sell arms to Iran in 1985-86 in an attempt to win release of U.S. hostages in Lebanon. The other part of the covert operation involved diverting profits from the Iran arms sales and other efforts to provide weapons to the Nicaraguan contra rebels at a time when Congress had outlawed U.S. military aid.

Walsh in the letters noted that

his office still has to conduct a retrial of former CIA official Clair E. George, whose first trial ended in a hung jury, and the trials of former CIA official Duane "Dewey" Clarridge and former secretary of defense Caspar W. Weinberger.

"While these three cases are being tried, I shall complete work on my final report," he wrote.

Walsh also said his office in the next few weeks will be filing its previously announced appeal with the Supreme Court in an effort to reinstate the conviction of former White House national security adviser John M. Poindexter.